

those methods of clinical investigation by the proper application of which a correct diagnosis can alone be arrived at; hence the title *Clinical Methods*. A work of this kind is in reality what the student needs. He must first of all learn how to investigate a given case before taking up the question of diagnosis proper. Every year thousands of young men are sent out from the medical schools all over the country who have not as yet mastered the A B C of practical medicine, while they may have passed most satisfactorily examinations upon the theory of the subject. This is unfortunate, and it is high time that our medical schools should appreciate the importance of first instructing the students in the technique of clinical examination before entering more deeply into the theory of medicine. The basis of the art of diagnosis is a thorough knowledge of clinical methods and of a definite system of examination. The work before us will really prove most valuable as a guide in this direction, not only to the medical student, who should study it most assiduously at the bedside, but to the young practitioner as well. We unhesitatingly recommend it as one of the best with which we are acquainted. Throughout the book excellent illustrations, explanatory of the text, are scattered in abundance, which will greatly aid the student in grasping the important points considered.

The sections devoted to the study of the blood, the urine, pathological fluids, and clinical bacteriology are excellent.

We also congratulate the publishers upon the very attractive appearance of the entire work.

C. E. S.

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LECTURES ON THE MALARIAL FEVERS. By WILLIAM SYDNEY THAYER, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine in the Johns Hopkins University. Pp. vi., 326. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1897.

This volume is the logical outcome of the association of abundant opportunity with the ability and industry necessary for the thorough study of a subject which, like the malarial fevers, has made such rapid advances within the last few years. Probably no other group of diseases is so generally misunderstood by the general profession as are the malarial fevers; and probably no other term serves to quite the same extent as a cloak to cover up the egregious errors in diagnosis of a not inconsiderable proportion of unthinking practitioners as does "malaria." This fact the author of the present volume conclusively proves by citing the health statistics of New York City and Brooklyn, which, during the six years ending in 1890, show a larger percentage of deaths from malarial fever than is shown to occur in the same localities during the same period from typhoid fever. It is evident that the extent to which errors in diagnosis are to be held accountable for this high death-rate in localities essentially non-malarial is enormous, and only to be explained by a prevalence of dense ignorance among a large number of the profession concerning the disease in question. If these lectures do aught toward remedying this deplorable condition of affairs the appearance of the volume would be more than justified were this the only result accomplished. The value of the contribution, however, is far greater than this, as in the series of nine lectures the author essays the scientific consideration of the malarial fevers as we understand these

diseases at the present day. As such is the scope of the work, it is somewhat regrettable that the title chosen by the writer does not clearly indicate it, for the present volume, together with the author's studies of the malarial fevers in association with Hewetson, may be regarded as the most valuable and thorough contributions to the study of these diseases in the English language.

More is to be said than that this volume amply repays its perusal; it should be studied by every physician who makes the slightest claim to a desire to be conversant with this group of diseases, in no other than which has our knowledge in recent years undergone more radical changes.

T. G. A.

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A SYSTEM OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE. Edited by A. L. LOOMIS, M.D., and W. G. THOMPSON, M.D. New York and Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co., 1897.

THE third volume of this work contains descriptions of diseases of the alimentary canal, peritoneum, liver, gall-bladder, spleen, pancreas, and thyroid gland; also chronic metal poisoning, alcoholism, morphinism, etc. The names of some of the contributors are R. C. Cabot, Dock, Hare, W. W. Johnston, Kinnicutt, Lyman, M. Allen Starr, Vaughan.

The importance of such a system of medicine must not be judged, except in rare instances, by the value of any one article, but by the general excellence of all the papers; and considering this volume as a fair specimen of the entire work, it appears to us on the whole satisfactory, without attaining a high degree of merit. Odious as comparisons are, it is, however, fair to judge the work by other system which have appeared or are appearing. In Pepper's earlier *System of Medicine*, Welch's article on carcinoma of the stomach was so admirable that it made it important to own the *System*, since this article is continually referred to. In the new *System* no such article has yet appeared, and we feel as though we did not require the volumes on our shelf. If it were a question of the purchase of this American *System* or the English one appearing synchronously, under the editorship of Allbutt, we would prefer the latter. We do not intend to compare individual articles, but the English *System* seems to us to contain more papers of permanent value than are to be found in the American. We question whether there was any real demand or need for this American work. This is the age of "literary scribbling," as it has been lately aptly termed, and while we would not for a moment imply that "scribbling" could be applied fairly to any of the papers in this volume, yet we feel that were it not that printing is so cheap, and the desire to appear in print so rabid among the profession, this *System* would not have appeared. It may be asked for whom are such systems written? Is it for the student, the recent graduate, or the older practitioner? After a longer or shorter time in practice the physician no longer wants profound articles on all branches of medicine, but instinctively turns to special works on the subjects in which he is most interested, and rather than buy a five or six volume work he will purchase books dealing with only those diseases. The cost of such systems must limit their extensive sale,